

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

- receiving user audio preference information;
- ~~automatically processing audio signals of an audio piece and compiling audio characteristic information including acoustic information associated with the audio piece based on the automatically processed audio signals;~~
- selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the receiving-user audio preference information;
- ~~comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information;~~
- ~~selecting the audio piece based on the comparison and further based on a detected broadcast time scheduled for the audio piece;~~
- ~~receiving the audio piece broadcast according to the scheduled broadcast time;~~
- temporarily storing at least a portion of the selected ones of the plurality of received audio pieces in a buffer;
- ~~detecting a playback condition; and~~
- outputting the temporarily stored ~~at least the portion of the received~~ audio pieces responsive to ~~[[the]]~~ a detected playback condition.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 56, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of the associated audio pieces.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include~~[[s]]~~ music.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include~~[[s]]~~ voice.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include~~[[s]]~~ an advertisement.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~ receiving a user selection of ~~[[for]]~~ the particular theme; and identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 56, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 56, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:

means for receiving user audio preferences information; a first processor processing audio signals of an audio piece and compiling audio characteristic information including acoustic information associated with the audio piece based on the processed audio signals;

means for selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the a first input receiving user audio preference information; and

a second processor coupled to the first input for:

comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information;

selecting the audio piece based on the comparison and further based on a detected broadcast time scheduled for the audio piece;

receiving the audio piece broadcast according to the scheduled broadcast time;

means for temporarily storing at least a portion of the selected ones of the plurality of received audio pieces in a buffer;[[,]] and

means for outputting the temporarily stored at least the portion of the received audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[24]] 68, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of the associated audio pieces.

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26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include[[s]] music.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include[[s]] voice.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include[[s]] an advertisement.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the system further comprising means ~~a third~~ ~~input at the user station~~ for receiving a user selection of [[for]] the particular theme.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68 ~~[[24]]~~, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68 ~~[[24]]~~, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

34-55. (Canceled)

56. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
retrieving audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels; and

comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

58. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising:
automatically processing audio signals in each of the plurality of audio pieces and generating the audio characteristic information in real time with the broadcast of the audio pieces.

59. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising:
receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising:
receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

61. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
dynamically generating an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces; and
playing the plurality of audio pieces based on the generated audio program.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are played according to customized playback times.

63. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

64. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

65. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the playback condition is tuning to a particular audio channel.

66. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the playback condition is a playback time.

67. (New) The system of claim 24 further comprising:
means for retrieving audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels; and
means for comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

68. (New) A user station comprising:
an input for receiving user audio preference information;
an audio tuner;
a preference tuner coupled to the audio tuner, the preference tuner for causing the audio tuner to selectively tune to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;
a buffer for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;
a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the temporarily stored audio pieces; and

an output for playing the temporarily stored audio pieces.

69. (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the preference tuner retrieves audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels and compares the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

70. (New) The user station of claim 69, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

71. (New) The user station of claim 69 further comprising:
automatically processing audio signals in each of the plurality of audio pieces and generating the audio characteristic information in real time with the broadcast of the audio pieces.

72. (New) The user station of claim 69 further comprising:
means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

73. (New) The user station of claim 69 further comprising:
means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

74. (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the sequencer dynamically generates an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

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75. (New) The user station of claim 74, wherein the dynamically generated audio program includes customized playback times.

76. (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

77. (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the sequencer detects a playback condition and causes the output to play the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to the detected playback condition.

78. (New) The user station of claim 77, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

79. (New) The user station of claim 77, wherein the playback condition is tuning to a particular audio channel.

80. (New) The user station of claim 77, wherein the playback condition is a playback time.